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Input from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the high-level political forum on sustainable development

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat hereby transmits the input from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

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Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session on the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

Background

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change will shape and direct the work of the Organization for decades to come.

2. The 2030 Agenda presents an unprecedented opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean, given that it addresses some of the core structural challenges that the region faces. It calls for the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, with productivity, decent work, social protection, education and health, and for new models and institutions under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It demands a renewed global governance to close asymmetries between countries and a global compact for financing and technology transfer. It proposes partnerships for a new development pattern, with a new equation between the State, society and the market and places equality at the centre of the development agenda. The latter is of particular relevance to Latin America and the Caribbean, the most unequal region in the world.

3. Given that the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is the only intergovernmental body of the United Nations in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is also important for the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals to be integrated into the work of its subsidiary bodies,[1] to ensure that comprehensive support is provided to countries for their implementation, in collaboration with other regional agencies (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, Caribbean Community, Union of South American Nations, Organization of American States and Central American Integration System, among others). To achieve this, ECLAC has supported its member States for the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development.

4. Following the invitation to the regional commissions by the General Assembly to the work of the high-level political forum and the call in the 2030 Agenda for strong follow-up and review mechanisms, in April 2015, the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, under the leadership of Peru as Chair, adopted resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) to initiate a consultation process for the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The Forum would be a regional mechanism to follow up and review

[1] The Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, the Committee on South-South Cooperation, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and the Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy.

the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Strengthening the regional architecture for monitoring the 2030 Agenda: Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

5. Subsequently, a series of consultations were held in New York in 2016, under the leadership of Peru as Chair of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, which included 10 meetings with experts and the extensive participation of representatives of member States. ECLAC served as the secretariat for the process, which resulted in the adoption of a resolution by the Committee in April 2016, in which the countries welcomed the successful conclusion of the consultation process and transmitted to the Commission a draft resolution on the establishment of the Forum for its consideration and action during its thirty-sixth session (see annex).

6. From 23 to 27 May 2016, ECLAC invited high-level representatives of Governments to consider, at its thirty-sixth session, in Mexico, the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

7. The President of Mexico, two vice-presidents, 25 ministers, 14 vice-ministers from Latin America and the Caribbean and 40 delegations from the 37 member States and 3 associate members attended the session. Representatives of nine United Nations system organizations, six specialized agencies and 10 intergovernmental organizations also participated, as did representatives of 127 non-governmental organizations, 35 universities and 250 journalists.

8. On 27 May 2016, ECLAC member States adopted by acclamation resolution 700(XXXVI), entitled "Mexico resolution on the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development" (see annex). By that resolution, they established the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

9. Pursuant to resolution 700(XXXVI), the Forum will be led by States and open to all countries in the region and, recognizing the inclusive spirit of the 2030 Agenda, to all relevant actors, including civil society, the private sector and academic institutions. It will be convened under the auspices of ECLAC and guided by the principles established for all follow-up and review processes by the 2030 Agenda.

10. Also pursuant to the resolution, the Forum will build on existing platforms and mandates, avoiding duplications and the creation of additional structures, and within existing resources will promote coordination and coherence within the United Nations development system, and invite other relevant regional and subregional entities and international financial institutions to be involved in its meetings.

11. The Commission will issue an annual progress report to the Forum about the regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda and provide policy recommendations to be considered by the Forum. The report will be considered to be a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on

sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and its forum on financing for development follow-up.

12. In addition, ECLAC will prepare a quadrennial progress report for the consideration of the Forum as a regional contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, consolidating and building on the progress and challenges identified in the preceding annual reports, in order to provide a broader analysis of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level.

13. The report will provide an assessment of the regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the basis of agreed indicators and other contributions from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,[1] and on national-level reviews, as appropriate, and will provide policy recommendations to be considered by the Forum.

14. The establishment of the Forum brings forth an important opportunity for collaboration among equals to discuss lesson learned, exchange good practices and discuss common priorities, concerns and aspirations. In addition, the Forum will become a main coordinating entity to build upon the already existing network of regional institutions and mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean (see figure below). Given that it receives a wide variety of input from sectoral entities from the region, the Forum will systematically facilitate an inclusive, integrated and multidisciplinary approach to the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in line with the holistic spirit of those agendas.

15. The Forum, in accordance with resolution 700(XXXVI), should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion of shared targets, benefiting from the cooperation of the regional and subregional commissions and organizations in order to guide an inclusive regional process.

16. The resolution points to at least 16 actions through which the Forum will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

17. Among the 16 actions, the resolution highlights the strengthening of coordination, the promotion of cooperation and the provision of political guidance through recommendations for sustainable development at the regional level, together with the fostering of the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner.

18. The particular focus will be on the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the promotion of sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth, including sustainable consumption and production patterns, the reduction of inequality and the promotion of social inclusion, the recognition of cultural diversity and of the role of culture as a crucial enabler of sustainable development, the protection and sustainable use of the environment and the promotion of good living in harmony with nature.

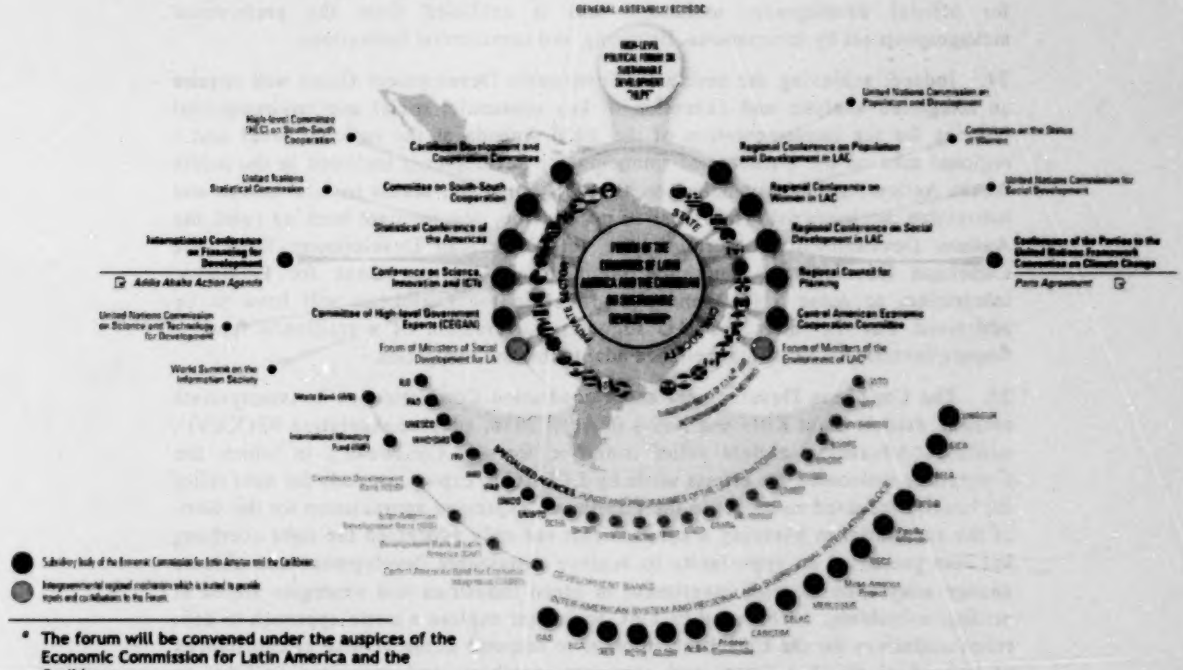
19. In the resolution, the Commission stressed that the Forum would recognize the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries, small-island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries and

countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict, in order to respond to the universal character of the 2030 Agenda.

20. Lastly, the Forum is encouraged to guarantee the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector.

21. Organizations and networks of civil society that participated in the event appreciated the establishment of the Forum as a very significant step for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level.

Strengthening the regional architecture for the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda: the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development


GENERAL ASSEMBLY ECOSOC
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT "HLPF"
United Nations Commission on Population and Development
High-level Committee (HLC) on South-South Cooperation
Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
Regional Conference on Population and Development in LAC
Commission on the Status of Women
United Nations Statistical Commission
Committee on South-South Cooperation
Regional Conference on Women in LAC
United Nations Commission for Social Development
Statistical Conference of the Americas
Regional Conference on Social Development in LAC
International Conference on Financing for Development
Addis Ababa Action Agenda
Conference on Science, Innovation and ICTs
Regional Council for Planning
Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Paris Agreement
United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development
Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN)
Central American Economic Cooperation Committee
Forum of Ministers of Social Development for LA
Forum of Ministers of the Environment of LAC
World Summit on the Information Society
FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
DEVELOPMENT BANKS
INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION BLOCS
Subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Intergovernmental regional mechanism which is invited to provide inputs and contributions to the Forum

[a] The forum will be convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

[b] Owing to space considerations, some names have been abbreviated. For a complete list of subsidiary bodies of ECLAC visit http://www.cepal.org/en/organos-subsidiarios.

[c] The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean acts as secretariat. The Forum also has an interagency Technical Committee composed of UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme, ECLAC, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.

[d] This is a non-exhaustive list. For a complete list of specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations visit http://www.unsceb.org/content/unsystemchart-dp-2015.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), "Establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development", resolution adopted at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, 27 May 2016.

Proposed guiding actions of the Commission for the implementation and follow-up of global agreements

22. The year 2016 marks the beginning of the implementation of these historical agreements. Given that the implementation of the agreements will be led mainly at the national level, ECLAC proposes a series of actions that can be grouped in four main categories to respond to the challenges and opportunities that this new phase poses and the challenge of "ensuring that no one is left behind".

Strengthening the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level

23. To ensure the successful implementation of the global development agenda, adequate means of implementation are essential for Latin America and the Caribbean, which is a middle-income region that, for the most part, is not eligible for official development assistance and is excluded from the preferential arrangements set by international financing and commercial institutions.

24. Indeed, achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals will require an integrated analysis and execution of key economic, social and environmental policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level and a regional take on the elements of financing for development included in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (financing, technology, fair trade, access to information and innovative mechanisms). The issues of tax evasion, development banking (with the Andean Development Corporation, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, to name a few) and debt relief in the Caribbean will have to be addressed. For the latter, ECLAC suggests the creation of a resilience fund to finance investment for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

25. The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, at its twenty-sixth session, held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in April 2016, adopted resolution 93(XXVI), entitled "Advancing a debt relief initiative for the Caribbean", in which the Committee welcomed the efforts made by ECLAC to explore options for debt relief for heavily indebted countries in the Caribbean; expressed appreciation for the work of the secretariat in pursuing a solution that not only addressed the debt overhang but also presented an opportunity to achieve sustainable development and climate change adaptation through investment in green industries and strategies aimed at resilience-building; encouraged ECLAC to further explore a menu approach to debt relief initiatives for the Caribbean in order to respond to the diverse circumstances of individual member States and associate members; and requested ECLAC to support the creation of an inter-agency task force to elaborate the details of a proposed debt swap mechanism.[2]

Supporting the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans and budgets

26. One of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda is planning, whose role is clearly set forth in the Agenda. Accordingly, the countries conferred a mandate upon ECLAC, through its subsidiary body, the Regional Council for Planning of the

[2] For a proposal on debt for climate adaptation swaps, see http://cdcc.cepal.org/26/sites/default/files/eclac_proposal_on_debt_for_climate_adaptation_swaps.pdf.

Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, to prioritize those actions in its programme of work that will help to align planning processes and instruments with the Agenda.[3]

27. In its resolution CRP/XV/01, the Regional Council for Planning acknowledged the importance of public management and planning for development as instruments to carry forward the 2030 Agenda in the region and, in that context, requested the Institute to continue to pursue applied research, technical cooperation, advisory work and training relating to the mainstreaming of the Agenda in planning for development; and requested the Institute, pursuant to resolution CRP/XIV/01, to continue its efforts to strengthen planning in Latin America and the Caribbean, by

(a) Disseminating knowledge and analysis of development plans and programmes;

(b) Sharing knowledge and collaborating regarding experiences and good practices in the use of planning instruments, methodologies and tools;

(c) Building capacities for the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Agenda in the region.

28. To ensure an integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the creation of national inter-agency and intersectoral architectures at the highest level would facilitate the implementation of and follow-up to the Agenda, with its economic, social and environmental dimensions. Furthermore, to ensure the long-term alignment between the global and national agendas, the Sustainable Development Goals could be integrated into national and local planning schemes, taking into account tax, budget and public investment matters. Capacity-building through seminars, courses and technical assistance at the regional, national and subnational levels could be offered to assist countries with this integration. Lastly, the development of a regional observatory on planning for sustainable development, including a regional repository of national development plans, would be helpful to ensure that good practices and lessons learned are shared among countries.

29. The creation of such national, inter-agency and intersectoral architecture will be supported to facilitate the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices in creating interministerial forums, based on successful experiences in some of the countries of the region, and to address the challenges of the 2030 Agenda by promoting dialogue between the countries with a view to cooperation and mutual learning.

30. The integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national and territorial planning systems will be supported, including on taxation, budgets and public investment. At least 19 Governments in the region have medium-term or long-term development strategies, and the task of aligning these strategies with the Goals represents an important step towards building sustainable development in the region.

31. The Commission will support capacity-building through seminars, workshops, courses and technical assistance at the regional, national and subnational levels. Implementing the 2030 Agenda will require the creation and strengthening of

[3] See resolution CRP/XV/01, adopted by the Regional Council for Planning at its fifteenth meeting, held in Yachay, Ecuador, on 19 November 2015.

capacity in the public sector and among other stakeholders. It will also develop a regional observatory on planning for sustainable development, including the Latin American and Caribbean Planning Repository. The observatory is conceived as a platform capable of accommodating all regional planning instruments, with a view to monitoring the implementation, follow-up and review processes of the Agenda, as well as national budget allocations linked to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Strengthening statistical capacities for monitoring the 2030 Agenda

32. To truly measure that no one is left behind during the implementation, follow-up and review phases of the 2030 Agenda, adequate statistics and statistical capabilities are paramount. This implies promoting statistical principles and good practices and maintaining the quality, integrity and timeliness of data while protecting and ensuring privacy and rights relating to data and reducing gaps in access, use and data literacy. Strengthening regional and national data ecosystems and data innovation networks with the private sector and civil society and promoting regional and South-South cooperation and systems for exchanging data at the regional and interregional levels will be necessary.

33. The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, which promotes the design of national and regional statistical development strategies and linkages between statistical agendas at the global, regional and national levels, is a very relevant platform to achieve this. Furthermore, ECLAC suggests the promotion of a regional platform on data and statistics for sustainable development, with an ongoing dialogue on regional review of and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals with the members from the region of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

34. In accordance with the mandate received from the member countries at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC,[4] held in Quito in November 2015, the Commission promotes national and regional strategies for the development of statistics with a view to improving the collection, processing, disaggregation, dissemination and analysis of good quality statistics — both traditional and non-traditional — for the construction of the proposed indicators for the follow-up to and review of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets.

35. To increase the capacity of national statistical systems to meet the demands of the 2030 Agenda, the Commission proposes:

(a) To confer a mandate upon the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC to mainstream the statistical requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals in its programme of work;

(b) To support the Latin American and Caribbean member countries of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by establishing the Statistical

[4] See resolution 9(VIII) and the Mitad del Mundo Declaration of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, to coordinate and plan activities on data and statistics relating to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators in the region;

(c) To strengthen national statistical capacities through technical assistance, the development of methodologies and the use of international standards;

(d) To promote regional and South-South cooperation and regional and interregional mechanisms for exchanging data on the Goals;

(e) To strengthen regional and national data ecosystems, enhancing innovation and technology networks, with possible private sector and civil society participation, to promote data openness, incorporate non-traditional data such as administrative records, big data and data from civil society, and to improve geographical information and visualization and geo-referencing tools.

Annex

700(XXXVI) Mexico resolution on the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its sixteenth extraordinary session held in Santiago on 16 April 2015, in which the Committee decided to launch a regional consultation process aimed at establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016,

Recalling also resolution 696(PLEN.31) adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its thirty-first session, held in New York on 28 April 2016, in which the countries welcomed the successful conclusion of the regional consultation process aimed at establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development,

Having examined the draft report of the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole,

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in accordance with the outcome of the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole, as set forth in the annex to this resolution.

Annex

Resolution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) of its Committee of the Whole, through which, inter alia, a regional consultation process was launched with the aim of establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, as well as United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard, and establishes guiding principles for follow-up and review processes at all levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, respecting policy space and priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments, and recognizing that the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review will be primarily based on national official data sources,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 69/313, entitled "Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development", which, inter alia, commits Member States to fully engage, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up of the financing for development outcomes and all the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 61/16 and 68/1, which, inter alia, urge the United Nations regional commissions to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of

the major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288, in which countries agreed to strengthen the Economic and Social Council as a principal body in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/290, which, inter alia, acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Emphasizing the importance of establishing a regional forum to follow up and review progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for, inter alia, strengthening coherence and coordination, promoting cooperation and providing policy guidance, fostering national capacity-building, hosting voluntary State-led national reviews, identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets, fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned, helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation, encouraging participation of all relevant stakeholders, providing a platform for partnerships, favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability, and promoting the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies,

Recognizing that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development; and reaffirming that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our common home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions,

Emphasizing the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support by the United Nations development system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the financing for development processes, including at the regional level, taking into account other regional and subregional processes promoting the impact of international development cooperation,

Taking into consideration the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries, and recognizing the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the Note by the secretariat of the Commission,[a] prepared in fulfilment of resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) adopted by the Committee of the Whole,

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

[a] LC/L.4123.

including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

2. *Decides also* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be State-led and open to the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries, and that it should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, benefiting from the cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations, in order to guide an inclusive regional process drawing on national-level reviews and contributing to follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the global level, including at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and at the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as appropriate;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be guided by the principles established for all follow-up and review processes by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will build on existing platforms and mandates, avoiding duplications and the creation of additional structures, and that within existing resources it will promote coordination and coherence within the United Nations development system, and invite other relevant regional and subregional entities and international financial institutions to be involved in its meetings, as appropriate, while addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated and balanced manner, and in these regards further decides that:

(a) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be informed by the following subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate:

(i) The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,

(ii) The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

(iii) The Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning,

(iv) The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

(v) The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

(vi) The Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies,

(vii) The Committee on South-South Cooperation,

(viii) The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

(ix) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts, and

(x) The Central American Economic Cooperation Committee,

(b) Other relevant intergovernmental regional mechanisms, including the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America, are invited to provide inputs and contributions and inform the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, within their existing mandates, on their work related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

(c) The regional offices of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in a coordinated manner, including through the submission of contributions to be reflected in annual progress reports of the Commission, and the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

(d) Relevant international financial institutions, including regional and subregional development banks, are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, including through the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as appropriate,

(e) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will take into account, as appropriate, the outcomes related to sustainable development agreed by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, including its 2025 Plan on Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger;

5. *Stresses* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will recognize the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries, and the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, in order to address the universal character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Highlights* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and that it will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by, inter alia:

(a) Strengthening coordination, promoting cooperation and providing political guidance through recommendations for sustainable development at the regional level,

(b) Fostering the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner, with a particular focus on the

eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the promotion of sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth, including sustainable consumption and production patterns, the reduction of inequalities and the promotion of social inclusion, the recognition of cultural diversity and of the role of culture as a crucial enabler of sustainable development, the protection and sustainable use of the environment, and the promotion of good living in harmony with nature,

(c) Assessing progress on the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the consideration of annual reports issued by the secretariat of the Commission to be based, as appropriate, on the global indicators framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets agreed upon by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and on other relevant indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring developed at the regional and national levels, taking also into account the indicators encompassed under the operational guidelines for implementing the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as appropriate. All indicators should be based to the greatest extent possible on comparable and standardized official national statistics provided by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and, when other sources and methodologies are used, these will be reviewed and agreed upon by national statistical authorities and presented in a transparent manner,

(d) Following-up and reviewing the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) at the regional level,

(e) Assessing the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 at the regional level,

(f) Promoting international cooperation and national capacity-building for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, and other modalities of cooperation in order to strengthen and complement traditional modalities of cooperation,

(g) Hosting voluntary State-led national reviews,

(h) Identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

(i) Fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned,

(j) Helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

(k) Encouraging the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

(l) Providing a platform for partnerships for sustainable development,

(m) Favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability,

(n) Promoting the coordination and coherence of national development plans and strategies with global frameworks,

(o) Contributing to the guidance provided by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly, as well as of the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as appropriate,

(p) Promoting, at the regional level, the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and stepping up regional cooperation and collaboration in science, research, technology and innovation, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit, focusing on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened annually, as appropriate, by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission. It will be supported by the secretariat of the Commission, and aligned with the schedules, working programmes and themes of the Economic and Social Council, of the latter's Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, and of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to issue an annual progress report, four weeks in advance of the respective meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The report will be considered a regional contribution for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and its Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as appropriate, and will assess the regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the basis of agreed indicators and other relevant contributions from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and on national-level reviews, as appropriate, and it will provide policy recommendations to be considered by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

9. *Also requests* the secretariat of the Commission to prepare a quadrennial progress report, to be considered by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly, consolidating and building on the progress and challenges identified in the preceding annual reports, in order to provide a broader analysis of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level;

10. *Encourages* the Latin American and Caribbean countries to submit, through the Forum, its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, and a summary produced by its Chair, as appropriate:

- To the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- To the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

– To the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism;

11. *Highlights* the participatory and inclusive character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encourages the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, and in this regard encourages the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to ensure institutionalized multi-stakeholder participation following the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Economic and Social Council;

12. *Encourages* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to volunteer for national reviews, and the Forum to further develop modalities for hosting them in accordance with the related principles and guidelines provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.